



August 2014

Dyslexia Services

This fact sheet is intended to provide information pertaining to Dyslexia Therapist Training and ADE approved programs pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-601 *et seq.*

Dyslexia Therapist Training and Approved Programs

A dyslexia therapist is defined in the law as a professional who has completed training and obtained certification in dyslexia therapy from a dyslexia therapist training program (A.C.A. § 6-41-602). A school district shall have individuals serving as dyslexia interventionists at the therapeutic level, no later than the 2015-2016 school year (A.C.A. § 6-41-601 *et seq.*).

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) approves *dyslexia therapy programs* that are nationally accredited by International Dyslexia Association (IDA) or International Multisensory Language Education Council (IMSLEC). Participants who successfully complete an IDA or IMSLEC accredited course are eligible to take the Alliance Registration Exam for Multisensory Structured Language Education administered by Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA). Participants passing the Alliance Registration Exam earn the title of Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) and are approved by the ADE to provide dyslexia therapy.

Until there are a sufficient number of graduates from a *dyslexia therapy program* established at the university level in Arkansas or from *dyslexia therapy program* established at the university level in another state that is approved by the ADE, the ADE shall allow dyslexia therapy to be provided by individuals who have received training and certification from a program approved by the ADE (A.C.A. § 6-41-605).

If the school district determines the following five (5) criteria are met within a dyslexia program, that program is considered approved and may be used for dyslexia. No application is required.

1. Training course is delivered by a certified trainer in the selected dyslexia program;
2. Training and program is systematic and research based;
3. Instruction is multisensory;
4. Provides small group instruction in the essential components of reading including phonemic awareness, graphophonemic knowledge, and structure of the English language, linguistic instruction and strategies for decoding, encoding word recognition, fluency and comprehension; and
5. The program is approved by another state department of education as an approved dyslexia program.

If the program meets criteria 1-4 but is not recognized as an approved program by another state department of education, the district must submit the [Dyslexia Program Approval Form](#) to ADE.dyslexia@arkansas.gov.

Where can I learn more?

For more information on this issue, visit: <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/dyslexia>